

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

OIC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

TRSE-00 (ISO) W

----- 038434

R 030414Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9691

INFO US MISSION USUN 1617

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 5178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ESCAP

SUBJ: ESCAP/UNDP REGIONAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC) BANGKOK FEB 25-MARCH 2, 1976

REF: STATE 042713

1. SUMMARY: FIRST REGINAL TCDC MEETING WAS SHORT ON COUNTRY
PREPARATION AND SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENTS AND LONG ON THE AMOUNT
OF TIME AND EFFORT REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE TO RESTORE SOME BALANCE
TO THE CONTENT AND WORKING OF 31-PAGE FINAL REPORT, MOST
ESPECIALLY ITS ELEGANT PAGES OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
WITH LITTLE SUPPORT FROM ITS DEVELOPED COUNTRY ALLIES, SAVE UK,
USDEL IN AN UPHILL FIGHT MANAGED TO ELIMINATE ALL OF NASTIEST
BARBS--MOST ESPECIALLY NIEO IMPLEMENTATION LANGUAGE--THAT
ROMANIAN AND INDIA ATTEMPTED TO SPRINKLE LIBERALLY THROUGHOUT
RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO TONE DOWN AND RECAST MANY OF OTHER
RECOMMENDATIONS. WE ALSO MANAGED TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, TO ROLE OF WOMEN IN TCDC AND TO
LOW COST PUBLIC SERVICES INCLUDING MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH
IN RECOMMENDATION SECTION OF FINAL REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST OF FOUR REGIONAL TCDC PREPARATORY MEETINGS PRIOR TO
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1977 GLOBAL TCDC CONFERENCE IN ARGENTINA HELD AT ESCAP

HEADQUARTERS FROM 25 FEBRUARY-2 MARCH, WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 33 COUNTRIES, 13 SPECIALIZED UN AGENCIES AND ROGANIZATIONS, UNCTAD, ECA AND SIX ESCAP REGIONAL ENTITIES.

3. MEETING WAS LARGELY ORCHESTRATED AND DOMINATED BY INDIANS CONSISTING OF A STRONG, WELL PREPARED INDIAN DELEGATION, AN INDIAN RAPPORTEUR FOR MEETING, ACTIVE INDIAN ESCAP SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATION INCLUDING A SPECIAL TCDC CONSULTANT, AND INDIAN UNDP STAFFERS WHO INTRODUCED NUMEROUS AGENDA ITEMS, INTERJECTED UNDP'S NEW DIMENSIONS DECISION, AND DRAFTED FINAL REPORT INCLUDING PENULTIMATE DRAFT OF THE REPORT'S DETAILED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION.

4. MEETING, HOWEVER, WAS MARRED BY NEAR ZERO HOMEWORK HAVING BEEN DONE (AND BUT PRO FORMA PARTICIPATION) BY OVER 50 PERCENTS OF ALL ATTENDEES-- THE PRINCIPAL EXCEPTION BEING INDIA, THAILAND, ESCAP, PHILIPPINES SRI LANKA, BANGLADESH, GILBERT ISLANDS, YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA, US, UK AND UN/OTC--AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, INDONESIA, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA. MOST GLARING AND DISAPPOINTING TO ALL CONCERNED EXAMPLE OF PRO FORMA PARTICIPATION WAS IRAN, THE RICHES LDC IN THE AREA AND BEST POTENTIAL REGIONAL FINANCING SOURCE OF BILATERAL AND TRI-ANGULAR TCDC ACTIVITIES. IRAN REPRESENTATIVE WAS IN HIS CHAIR ONLY 10 PERCENTS OF THE TIME AND NEVER MADE AN INTERVENTION OF ANY TYPE.

5. MEETING WAS FOR LESS POLITICAL AND BOMBASTIC THAN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE NON-ATTENDANCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINA (THEY CAME ONLY TO THE COCKTAIL PARTY), SOUTH VIETNAM, AND CAMBODIA.

6. NEVERTHELESS, MEETING WAS STILL MORE POLITICAL AND CONFRONTATIONAL THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN LARGELY DUE TO A DETERMINED EFFORT BY THE SKILLED ROMANIAN DELEGATE (BOGDAN BALTAZAR, A FORMER UNDP TYPE NOW STATIONED IN MANILA) TO REPEATEDLY INTERJECT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND OTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES INTO THE PROCEEDINGS INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED

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A RECOMMENDATION THAT CONCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT SHOULD BE THAT TCDC SHOULD BE SEEN AS A MAJOR INSTRUMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING NIEO. ROMANIAN DELEGATE WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY INDIA AND SUPPORTED BY NUMEROUS OTHERS INCLUDING PHILIPPINES--PROBABLY AS A PARTIAL DUES PAYMENT FOR RECENT MANILA BASED G-77 MEETING. A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES (INCLUDING SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, FRG, NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND) WERE ABSENT DURING

THE TWO DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FINAL REPORTS DETAILED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. WITH EXCEPTION OF UK AND TO A FAR LESSER EXTENT JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND NONE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SEEMED TO CARE ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT NOR PLAYED A ROLE IN SHAPING ITS CONCLUSIONS, NOR PUBLICLY SUPPORTED MANY U.S. SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND DELETIONS, IN THE REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. NOTE: THE U.S. FINALLY MANAGED TO GET THE OFFENSIVE NIEO IMPLEMENTATION-SLANTED FINAL PARAGRAPH REMOVED FROM THE REPORT VIA TABLING PROPOSED ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF OUR OWN THAT A) URGED BETTER OFF LDC'S (READ ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA) TO GIVE UP OR EARMARK THEIR IPF'S TO ASSIST TCDC; B) URGED ALL COUNTRIES (READ USSR, ROMANIAN, YUGOSLAVIA) TO MAKE THEIR PLEDGES TO UNDP IN CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE UNTYING OF AID AND THUS TCDC C) SUGGESTED COUNTRIES USE PORTIONS OF THEIR COUNTRY IPF'S FOR TCDC PURPOSES. THE U.S. PORPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS (WHICH HAD LITTEL SUPPORT), ITS REFUSAL TO BY A WATERED DOWN VERSION OF THE ROMANIAN TEXT IN THE NAME OF CONSENSUS AND A CORRIDOR PROMISE ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MEETING THAT A WIDE RANGING, DETAILED U.S. STATEMENT CATELOGING ITS CRITICISMS OF THE REPORT WOULD BE MADE FOR THE RECORD WITHIN AN HOUR SERVED TO ACTIVATE THE THAI CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING--ASSISTED BY THE SOVIET AND YUGOSLAV DELEGATES--TO "SUCCESSFULLY" NEGOTIATE THE TRADE OFF THE U.S. DELEGATION HAD AIMED FOR: ELIMINATION OF THE WELL-SUPPORTED ROMANIA PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION IN EXCHAGE FOR ELIMINATION OF THE LARGELY UNSUPPORTED U.S. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION.

8. MEETING WAS WELL LAUNCHED BY AN EXCELLENT INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT (ANNEXED TO THE FINAL REPORT) BY UNDP DEPUTY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OIC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12

NEA-10 TRSE-00 (ISO) W

----- 038430

R 030414Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9692

INFO US MISSION USUN 1618

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ADMINISTRATOR PATEL THAT POINTED OUT TO THE LDC'S THAT THAT A) TCDC TO BE SUCCESSFUL MUST ENTAIL SOME SACRIFICE ON THEIR PART B) POINTED OUT THE PITFALLS OF UNDP PREFERENCES (SUB-CONTRACTORS, EQUIPMENT, ETC.) FOR LDC'S BY STATING THAT BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE FUNDED FROM THE SAME GENERAL POOL OF UNDP FUNDS AIDING LDC'S THEY COULD ONLY COME IN THE ULTIMATE ANALYSIS AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER LDC; AND C) THERE HAD BEEN TOO MUCH PREOCCUPATION WITH THIS "MARKET SHARING" ASPECT THAT HAD DIVERTED FROM "THE FAR MORE URGENT AND DIFFICULT TASK OF MUSTERING POLITICAL WILL TO INITIATE AND SUSTAIN TRULY TCDC COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO SOLVE SPECIFIC COMMON PROBLEMS AND TO BUILD INSTITUTIONS TO SERVE COMMON NEEDS." USDEL CALLED THE PATEL STATEMENT THE MOST THOUGHT-PROVOKING, REALISTIC SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT ON TCDC HE HAD HEARD OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. A NUMBER OF THE LDC'S INCLUDING INDIA WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE PATEL STATEMENT BUT NONE ATTACKED IT OPENLY. STILL WITHIN A DAY LED BY INDIA, ROMANIA, PAKISTAN AND SRI LANKA, THE MEETING WAS LARGELY FOCUSED ON PREFERENCES, QUOTAS, RIGHTS OF FIRST REFUSAL, AID UNTYING AND THE NEED FOR MAJOR SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. USDEL STRONGLY OPPOSED ALL ATTEMPTS TO SET QUOTAS AND TARGETS, RIGHTS OF FIRST REFUSAL AND PREFERENCES AND WAS ABLE TO KEEP ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPLICIT MENTION OF ANY OF THEM OUT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT. THE RECOMMENDATIONS DO CONTAIN SOME HORTATORY LANGUAGE RE INCREASINGLY PROMOTING LDC SOURCE SUB-CONTRACTING, EQUIPMENT ETC., THAT IS Milder HOWEVER IN TONE THAN THE UNKP "NEW DIMENSION" DECISION.

9. MEETING TENDED TO CLOSELY LINK TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION PARTICULARLY IN DISCUSSION BEST AREAS FOR INTER REGIONAL TCDC. THE LANGUAGE-PARA 12 OF THE

RECOMMENDATIONS--IS INNOCENT AND UNEXCEPTIONABLE BUT SOME OF THE SUBJECT MATTER MENTIONED--TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AT MOST FAVORABLE TERMS, GOAL OF A GREATER SHARE IN PRICES OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES--DEFINITELY BEAR CONSTANT MONITORING IN BOTH THE UNDP AND THE ESCAP CONTEXT. NOTE: WE WILL LIKELY HEAR MORE OF THIS AT THE SECOND REGIONAL TCDC MEETING IN LIMA IN MAY AND IT COULD ALSO BE BROACHED AGAIN AT THE UPCOMING ESCAP 32ND SESSION.

10. U.S. STATEMENTS - USDEL MADE TWO STATEMENTS-ONE COVERING AGENDA ITEM FIVE (ADMINISTRATIVE, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS) AND THE SECOND COVERING ALL OF THE OTHER SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS. COPIES OF BOTH STATEMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED TOGETHER WITH DRAFT REPORT AND PATEL STATEMENT TO STOKES 10/CMD AND ARE ALSO ON FILE HERE. U.S. STATEMENT ON ITEM 5 WARMLY PRAISED CONTENT AND OBJECTIVE APPROACH TO DOCUMENT PREPARED BY THE YUGOSLAV INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT WAS A DOCUMENT THAT ESCHEWED ALL DOGMATISM AND RIGHTLY UNDERLINED THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TCDC WILL-TO A GREAT EXTENT--DEPEND UPON THE NATIONAL WILL OF LDC'S. THE U.S. PRAISE FOR THIS PAPER LATER PAID OFF AS THE YUGOSLAVS PLAYED THE FOURTH LEAD--AFTER INDIA, THE U.S. AND ROMANIA--IN THE WHOLE LAST 2 1/2 DAYS OF THE MEETING WHICH WERE GIVEN OVER TO NEGOTIATING THE TEXT OF FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

11. THE U.S. STATEMENT ON THE OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS, WHICH CAME AFTER LONG CRITICAL STATEMENTS BY INDIA AND MOST ESPECIALLY ROMANIA: A) RECALLED U.S. SUPPORT FOR PROPERLY ORIENTED AND FORMULATED TCDC; B) RECALLED CONTINUING U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRY RESERVATIONS TO SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UNCLASSIFIED

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TCDC; C) URGED THAT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT BE FULLY FACTORED INTO ALL ASPECTS OF TCDC PROJECTS PLANNING, AND REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DISCUSSIONS. NOTE: USDEL ALSO SAW TO IT THAT A PARAGRAPH ON WOMEN--PARA 43--WAS ADDED TO THE FINAL REPORT AND THAT THEIR ROLE ALSO WAS INCLUDED--PARA 10--IN THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS; D) CRITICIZED "THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PROMOTING TCDC" DOCUMENT FOR THE TCDC MEETINGS WRITTEN BY DR. HERMAN SANTA CRUZ FOR BEING WEIGHTED DOWN WITH DOGMATISM, PERJURATIVE STATEMENTS, AND CONTRADICTIONS, AND FOR TAKING NO ACCOUNT OF OF THE POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT HAD ALREADY FLOWED FROM THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION- WHICH THE U.S. DELEGATION THEN ENUMERATED--AS COMPARED TO THE CONFRONTATION-PLAGUED SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION; E) BRIEFLY DESCRIBED WHAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN DOING TO FOSTER TCDC IN ASIA ON A SUBREGIONAL BASIS VIA ITS REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HEADQUARTERED

IN BANGKOK; F) STRONGLY OPPOSED ANY SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES, QUOTAS, ETC.; G) REMINDED THE GROUP THAT THE U.S. HAD PROVIDED \$300 MILLION IN UNTIED AID TO UNDP OVER THE PAST DECADE AND AN ADDITIONAL \$2.5 BILLION TO OTHER UNWEIGHTED VOTING UN PROGRAMS; H) REMINDED THE GROUP THAT MANY PRESENT MADE PAYMENTS TO UNDP IN NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY WHICH CONSTITUTED TIED AID; I) REMINDED THE GROUP THAT AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOMES IN SO-CALLED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RANGED FROM \$30 TO \$8000 A YEAR AND THAT THE U.S. HAD PUSHED HARD IN UNDP GOVERNING COUNCILS TO ATTEMPT TO ASSUME THAT THE VAST MAJORITY--OVER 80 PERCENT -- OF UNDP RESOURCES BEGINNING IN 1977 WOULD BE EARMARKED FOR LOW INCOME COUNTRIES, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD TEND TO BENEFIT NEARLY ALL ASIAN COUNTRIES; J) URGED THE BETTER OFF LDC'S TO VOLUNTARY GIVE UP SOME OR ALL OF THEIR COUNTRY IPF'S IN THE NAME OF TCDC. NUMEROUS DELEGATIONS ASKED FOR AND WERE PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF THE U.S. STATEMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO05178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760086-1045
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603101/aaaadlby.tel
Line Count: 295
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 42713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESCAP/UNDP REGIONAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC) BANGKOK FEB 25-MARCH 2, 1976
TAGS: OCON, EAID, TH, ESCAP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006